

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-12 are pending herein. Claim 1 has been amended as supported by Fig. 2 of the present application, for example. New dependent claim 12 has been added as supported by Fig. 2 of the present application, for example.

Applicants appreciate Examiner Dougherty indicating that claims 2, 4 and 5 are allowed and that claim 3 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. For the reasons explained below, however, original independent claim 1 is believed to be allowable over the applied art.

Examiner Dougherty is thanked for courtesies extended to Applicants' representatives during a telephonic interview on December 29, 2005. The substance of that interview has been incorporated into the following remarks.

During the interview, Examiner Dougherty agreed to reconsider the rejection after reviewing Applicants' arguments reiterated below.

1. Claim 1 recites, among other things, a laminate-type piezoelectric device comprising an internal electrode layer as printed having an edge sidewall in a tip portion having an inclined surface making an acute angle with respect to the surface of one of the ceramic layers as printed.

Kitahara discloses, in Figs. 8B and 11B, an inclined surface 57a that is formed using a wire saw 57 only after the lamination is complete. As is well shown in Fig. 8B, the electrode layers 43, 44 *as printed* each have a tip portion that is blunt, not inclined as claimed. Therefore, Kitahara fails to disclose a laminate-type piezoelectric device comprising an internal electrode layer that, *as printed*, has an edge sidewall in a tip portion having an inclined surface making an acute angle with respect to the surface of the ceramic layer as printed, as recited in claim 1. Since claim 3 depends directly from claim 1, claim 3 is also believed to be allowable over the applied art. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims herein define patentable subject matter over the art of record. Accordingly, Examiner Dougherty is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance for this application in due course.

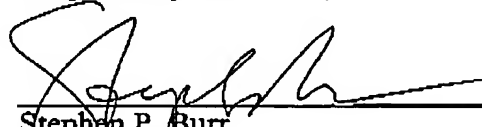
If Examiner Dougherty believes that contact with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, he is herein requested to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

January 11, 2006

Date

Respectfully submitted,


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